

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIA "SUSPENDS" DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH
KOREA - II

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1319

1. MAURITANIAN MINISTRY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED
"SUSPENSION" DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA IN STATEMENT
RELEASED TO PRESS AFTERNOON JUNE 7. MFA COMMUNIQUE IS LEAD STORY
JUNE 8 ON FRONT PAGES OF FRENCH AND ARABIC VERSIONS OF
ASH-SHA'AB, GOVERNMENT SPONSORED DAILY NEWSPAPER, AND HAS BEEN
BROADCAST IN FULL OVER RADIO MAURITANIE.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF COMMUNIQUE TEXT DISTRIBUTED BY
MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY AND PUBLISHED IN AY ESHA'AB FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: ONE RECALLS THAT IN MARCH 1976 AT A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT
KOREAN COOPERATION, THE DEMOCRATIC POPULAR REPUBLIC OF KOREA
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BELIEVED IT WAS REQUIRED, CONTRARY TO ALL EXPECTATIONS, TO TAKE
THE WEIGHTY (GRAVE) DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE SO-CALLED "SAHARAN
REPUBLIC", IN COMPLETE DISREGARD (MEPRIS) OF THE INTERESTS AND
LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAURITANIAN PEOPLE WHO WERE
FIGHTING FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF THEIR NATIONAL REUNIFICATION.
PARA ALTHOUGH THIS SET OF THE NORTH KOREAN LEADERSHIP GROUP
CAME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO COMPROMISING THE STATE OF GOOD

RELATIONS BUILT UP OVER RECENT YEARS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR TWO PEOPLES, THE MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT, CONCERNED ON ITS PART TO BE AS SPARING AS POSSIBLE OF THE FUTURE OF THE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, LIMITED ITS REACTION TO A FREEZING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATION HAVING BEEN MAINTAINED BUT REDUCED TO THE LEVEL OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRS IN NOUAKCHOTT.

PARA HAVING DONE THIS, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA STILL RETAINED THE HOPE THAT THE NORTH KOREAN LEADERSHIP GROUP, WHICH ASSERTS THAT IT FIGHTS FOR THE CAUSE OF THE REUNIFICATION OF ITS OWN PEOPLE, A CAUSE TO WHICH AFTER ALL MAURITANIA BELIEVES IT MADE ITS OWN MODEST CONTRIBUTION, WOULD BE ABLE, AIDED BY FLEXIBILITY AND UNDERSTANDING, TO RETURN TO A MORE CORRECT APPRECIATION OF A SITUATION ABOUT WHICH THEY SEEMED PARADOXICALLY TO HAVE LOST SIGHT OF THE REAL "GIVENS".

PARA TODAY, MORE THAN A YEAR LATER, WE ARE FORCED TO NOTE UNHAPPILY THAT THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DELIBERATELY OPTED FOR THE PROGRESSIVE WORSENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS THEIR REPEATED DECLARATIONS AND ADOPTION OF POSITIONS HOSTILE TO MAURITANIA ATTEST, JUST AS THE CONDUCT OF THE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS STILL POSTED IN NOUAKCHOTT DOES.

PARA AS A RESULT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA HAS DECIDED, BEGINNING TODAY, TO SUSPEND ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC POPULAR REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THIS STEP, WHICH WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO TAKE, IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE WHICH THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT CEASED TO DISPLAY TOWARD OUR COUNTRY, FROM THE TIME THE ALGERIAN LEADERSHIP GROUP DECIDED TO CREATE OUT OF BITS AND PIECES, BEGINNING WITH GROUPINGS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MERCENARIES, ON ALGERIAN SOIL, THEIR PHONY "SAHARAN REPUBLIC", AND BEGAN HURLING THESE BANDS OF MERCENARIES AGAINST OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE LAWS AND ELEMENTARY RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. END QUOTE. HANDYSIDE

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